

Washington, D.C. 20505

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21 November 1977

Dear Wick,

Thanks for your letter of October 12th. It's so nice to hear from you again. You seem to be thoroughly enjoying yourself at Ohio State and I'm happy military history is so well received there.

A review of my schedule indicates I should be able to come to Ohio State on the 12th or 13th of April. If either of those days are acceptable to you, my staff will work out the details with you.

Thanks, too, for the article on British strategy towards Italy in the late 1930s. And your comments on short-term, accurate intelligence forecasts are right on the mark. We are most definitely concentrating on forecasting months in the future rather than years.

Again, good to hear from you and I'll look forward to seeing you in April.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Professor Williamson Murray
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Executive Secretary

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Williamson Murray
Department of History
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio, 43210

October 12, 1977

Dear Admiral Turner,

In the letter that I received from you last February 22, you understandably but kindly refused an offer to speak at Yale. You did, however, imply that if circumstances should allow it, you would be willing to give a talk or lecture at Ohio State this year. I realize that you are exceedingly busy, but if you are in a position to and still want to give a public speech to a university audience, we would be delighted to have you here at Ohio State. I have been authorized to invite you here on an open-ended invitation. Whatever format, schedule, or time suit your schedule will be fine with us; a one day visit, an over night visit, a quick fly in and out visit. Your visit would be sponsored by the Mershon Center here at Ohio State, and the school will be in session from January 3 to March 10 during the winter quarter and from March 27 to June 2 for the spring quarter. An engagement during those periods would insure maximum exposure.

I am now fully convinced that a speech by you at Ohio State would be far more fitting than one at Yale. Ohio State is one of the very few places in the country where military history is studied seriously (there is no replacement for my course at Yale nor any interest in hiring a military historian despite the fact that 130 students took my upper level course there last year). Moreover the Mershon Center with its interest in strategic and policy questions gives the University a breadth in strategic questions which few institutions of higher learning can match.

As you can guess, I am immensely pleased by my move out here. I taught here this summer and discovered that the students at Ohio State can be as good, if not better, than Yale undergraduates, and they do not have the advantages which so many Yalies take for granted. The atmosphere is

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- 2 -

also considerably better -- I am no longer regarded as a queer bird interested in war or a rebel outside of the world of "scholarly" history. Even the non-military historians here regard military history as "respectable."

I am including an article which I have recently finished on British strategy towards Italy in 1938 and 1939. Because of the problems the British had in evaluating their own intelligence and in evolving a sensible grand strategy in that period, I thought that you might find it to be of some interest. If the determination of strategy were difficult in 1939, I can barely imagine the sort of problems which you face. And you are not helped by silly media coverage such as Time gave the CIA last summer. If our intelligence can give us a fairly good, general forecast of events for the next six months, it is doing a first class job. But to suggest that the CIA should give accurate and detailed forecasts years into the future displays a lack of understanding of the complexities of international society. It indicates a simplistic, social scientific approach to the world which at best is silly and at worst exceedingly dangerous.

Anyway much thanks for your attention.

Best Wishes,

Wick Murray
Williamson Murray



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

December 2, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

I was delighted to hear that you can come to Ohio State in April. Of the two dates that you mentioned, April 13th would be the better, because we can reserve the best auditorium on campus for that evening (it is reserved for class use on April 12th). I have already gone ahead and reserved the hall for that date. We would like to have you come to a late lunch April 13th, meet with selected students and faculty in a small seminar in the afternoon, and attend a small cocktail party and dinner in your honor at the Faculty Club before your public speech. I fully understand in view of your busy schedule and important responsibilities that you may not be available for the afternoon of April 13th and may be able only to make a quick fly in and fly out in the evening. However, if you can spare the time, an afternoon and evening would have a wider impact on the policy making administrators, academics and best students of this university. I will be happy to make whatever arrangements are convenient for you and will be happy to serve as a liaison with your staff.

You may be interested to hear that Dr. Allan Millett and I are in the process of establishing a "Military History and Strategic Studies Program" within the Department of History. Ohio State, with the Mershon Center and its military historians on campus, is presently offering a selection of courses similar to those offered by the Department of War Studies, King's College, but unless we have the visibility of a "program" we cannot attract the students who would be interested in such an approach. I have felt since my early days in graduate school that the study of strategy through the medium of military history is absolutely essential--an approach in which neither the American academic nor military communities have shown much interest (at least until your re-

forms at the Naval War College). I think that through such a program we will be able to attract not only students interested in studying for a doctorate, but many who are interested in studying for an M.A. to broaden their background before entering government service. We may even eventually be able to interest Defense and Intelligence agencies to send some of their middle level personnel to Ohio State to gain a military-historical perspective on current strategic problems. Your visit may well set the seal on the establishment of this program.

Once again, I am delighted to hear you can come to Ohio State. I look forward to seeing you again in April!

Best,



Williamson Murray

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